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News in Brief

Final issue of Whiteman Spirit

Today marks the final issue of the *Whiteman Spir-it* for 2004. The next issue will run Jan. 7, 2005.

Anyone who wishes to submit information for the Jan. 7 issue must send it to whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil by Dec. 31. For more details, call the *Whiteman Spirit* staff at 687-6133.

Immunization hours set

Beginning Monday, the 509th Medical Group Immunization Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays. The clinic is closed noon-1 p.m. weekdays for lunch and on weekends. For more details, call the clinic at 687-4303.

Volunteers needed for tax season

The Whiteman Tax Center seeks people to serve as unit volunteer income tax advisers or to assist with the daily administrative tasks at the tax center.

VITA representatives must be available Jan. 31 to April 15 to help unit members and volunteer at least four hours weekly at the tax center. People who are interested in volunteering must complete an application and return it to the legal office by Thursday. The legal office and first sergeants have the form to fill out.

Volunteers will be contacted in January with more details about the VITA program. For more details, call at 687-3668 or 687-6809.

BCC luncheon scheduled

The next Base Community Council luncheon begins at noon Jan. 6 at Mission's End. The menu is quiche with fruit garnish and juice. The cost is \$8.50. Those interested in attending must R.S.V.P. by noon, Jan. 4. To R.S.V.P. or for more details, call 2nd Lt. Mary Olsen at 687-6121.

Officials announce 2005 BAH rates

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Department of Defense officials released the 2005 Basic Allowance for Housing rates Wednesday, continuing to reduce servicemembers' out-of-pocket housing costs.

The 2005 rates can be found at https://secureapp2.

The 2005 rates can be found at https://secureapp2 hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/bah.html.

Authorized wear of watch caps

In an effort to alleviate confusion, new guidance has been provided for the authorized wear of watch (skull) caps.

Watch caps are authorized for wear in place of the ball cap with the BDU uniform only:

✔ When the field jacket or Gore-Tex jacket is worn.

✓ When worn on base. Watch caps are not authorized for wear off base.

For more details, see your first sergeant.

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Courtesy phot

ROYAL AIR FORCE FAIRFORD, United Kingdom — A new \$19 million B-2 hangar was unveiled at a ribbon-cutting ceremony here Dec. 10. The new structure, similar to B-2 hangar facilities at Whiteman Air Force Base, will allow a B-2 to receive the same kind of specialized maintenance at a forward-operating location as it receives at its home station. This capability means shorter missions for B-2 crews and faster turnaround times.

B-2 hangar debuts in England

New facility establishes forward-location option

By 1st Lt. Ed Gulick

Public Affairs

The B-2 now has a new permanent home when deployed from here.

Royal Air Force Fairford in the United Kingdom recently unveiled two B-2 climate-controlled permanent hangars Dec. 10. The new 50,000-square-foot facilities allow specialized low-observable surface maintenance to be performed.

"Low-observable maintenance is the backbone of the B-2," said Col. Chris Matson, 509th Maintenance Group commander. "Having the LO dock at Fairford allows us to do this critical process faster and better."

LO maintenance is critical in maintaining stealth attributes of the B-2. Specialized coatings cover the aircraft's composite and metal skin. The process of putting on these coatings, and ensuring it cures correctly and fully must be done in a climate-controlled environment, said Master Sgt. Brian Tobin, 509th Maintenance Squadron.

Brig. Gen. Jay Lindell, U. S. Air Forces Europe director of logistics, said RAF Fairford was an ideal strategic location for the hangar.

"It's a great day for the U.S. Air Force and a great day for the United Kingdom," said General Lindell. "We're looking forward to seeing history happen at Fairford."

Forward basing the B-2 at RAF Fairford will save about 16 hours of flight time for reaching targets across the Atlantic Ocean. That time can now be spent recovering a B-2 after a combat sortie and getting it ready for another mission, Colonel Matson said after returning from the unveiling ceremony at RAF Fairford.

"Staging the B-2 closer to potential theater engagement areas will provide a deterrent to adversaries of the United States," said Lt. Col. Tom Bussiere, 325th Bomb Squadron commander.

"The completion of the B-2 shelter is a step in the right direction in making RAF Fairford a fully operational B-2

The 424th Air Base Squadron at

RAF Fairford is located in England's

Costwolds region. Built in World

War II, Horsa gliders carried men

from the base to the D-Day invasion



Photo by Terry Pruc

ROYAL AIR FORCE FAIRFORD, United Kingdom — Brig. Gen. Jay Lindell, U.S. Air Forces Europe director of logistics, opens the doors to a new B-2 hangar unveiled here.

forward operating base," said Colonel Bussiere.

The \$19 million hangar complex was completed seven months ahead of schedule, according to Paul Haikney, contracted project design team manager.

(Capt. Heather Healy, 3rd Air Force Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

About RAF Fairford:

in France

RAF Fairford is known by its extremes: bare base during peace time and "tip of the spear" base during war.

Most days at RAF Fairford traffic is light, but when a military operation begins, the base becomes teeming with Airmen and bomber aircraft from around the United States.

COMMENTARY

Wing reviews successes of 2004; looks toward 2005

By Col. Chris Miller

509th Bomb Wing Commander

Remarkable! It's the only word that fits the pace here -- always full throttle. That can be a good thing when it comes to keeping our edge, but it can also mean we miss fully appreciating all we do. Let's take a moment to look at what we've accomplished as a team in the last 365 days.

Looking back, I'm reminded that today marks the 101st anniversary of manned flight. The timeless imagination of man and the determination of the Wright brothers combined at Kitty Hawk, N.C., to literally change the world. It's why we have an Air Force; it's also why one of our B-2s is named Spirit of Kitty Hawk.

On the centennial of the Wrights' first flight, exactly a year ago, 509ers celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first arrival of a B-2 at Whiteman. That celebration of a decade of cutting-edge global power got an exclamation point when the Air Force used the occasion to declare the B-2 a fully operationally capable weapon system.

We hit the ground running in January 2004. Our medical group became the first in Air Combat Command to receive specialized decontamination equipment to bolster our homeland defenses. We also sponsored a group of local civilian leaders on a trip to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Peterson AFB, Colo., to broaden their vision of what our Air Force does for the nation.

Spring was dominated by our first-ever Unit Compliance Inspection — or rather, we dominated it! In keeping

with 509th tradition, we passed the UCI with flying colors, earning a near-perfect report and seven ACC "Best Practices." Speaking of outstanding, several members of our wing started an exemplary fitness trend by scoring 100 points on the new Air Force physical fitness test.

Whiteman was on the cutting edge again in May when it became one of the first bases in the Air Force to employ contract security personnel. The new arrivals have made up for some of the deployment load on our security forces, and have been a welcome addition to our team!

Over the summer, we supported a U.S. Strategic Command exercise. We also deployed B-2s to Guam to demonstrate and improve the 509th's global reach and power. Then we entertained thousands of our neighbors at an open house and air show. We hosted some of DoD's most senior leaders in the business of maintaining our nation's nuclear deterrent. In the fall, your tremendous effort earned a record number of above-average grades in our Nuclear Operational Readiness Inspection.

For the B-2, our first year of "full operational capability" comes to an end with the aircraft as well maintained as it has ever been, and with our crew force now training to employ the awesome new payload of 80 precision weapons per aircraft — five times our previous capability!

While we worked hard as a 509th team, the contributions of the hundreds of Airmen who have deployed this year are equally — tremendously — important. Deployers from Whiteman have taken the pride, professionalism and performance of Team Whiteman around the world in sup-

port of our combatant commanders. These fine women and men — and through them, our base — has been literally on the front lines every day of the last year. Nothing should make us prouder than seeing our fellow Airmen and their families continue to meet these responsibilities.

It's already taken a lot of ink just to hit the highlights --did you realize you had accomplished so much in just 12 short months? Remember, though: it's not just what you did, but how you did it. There's not enough space to note the many dozens of unit and individual awards you've earned while keeping up this steady pace. From DoD-level to Air Force and ACC winners, Whiteman has been well represented at awards programs throughout the year.

As I look back at 2004, two things are crystal-clear. First: 2005, like every year, will bring its own unique challenges and rewards ... We'll deploy; we'll undergo more inspections; we'll face personal and professional hills to climb. We can't predict all of them, but we know they'll be there. Second, there's no unit in the world better prepared to meet the New Year! Working together, taking care of each other, staying focused on our mission to deploy and fight is what we do. We can always get better, but we're going the right direction. I'm convinced the 509th — and larger military and civilian team here — can do almost anything!

Whether you're traveling home or just around town, be careful throughout the season. Take some time to reflect and enjoy the things that you and your family value. Come back safe and ready for the New Year.

Annual performance feedback: useful guidance

By Lt. Col. Robert Hontz

509th Medical Operations Squadron Commander

In the 1974 hit song, Bachman Turner Overdrive sang "Take good care of my business ... every day." Whiteman's Tech. Sgt. Aaron Powell likes to say "People are my business and business is good."

Borrowing from each of these two lines "Take good care of my people ... every day" becomes a valuable mantra when dealing with coworkers. One class of folks this especially applies to is those whose careers we help guide. This phrase takes on critical importance to those who trust their careers to our mentorship.

Military members are very familiar with the annual performance feedback session. I believe that the proper completion and delivery of the performance feedback worksheet is one of your first steps in taking good care of your people. By being honest and giving feedback that's constructive and useful, you set the stage for success.

I had a boss years ago whose idea of great feedback was writing "Rob, you're the greatest" across the face of the performance feedback worksheet. This was wasted time and a lost opportunity to deliver useful career development guidance.

Functional managers have the opportunity every year to deliver meaningful professional development. This one-on-one time with those in your career field offers



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Powell, 509th Medical Operations Squadron, checks 2-week-old Darnell Holyfield's vital signs as his father, Senior Airman Darnell Holyfield, looks on. Airman Holyfield is assigned to the 509th Security Forces Squadron.

the perfect change to deliver force development guidance. We must invest a bit of ourselves and our time into this session to ensure it's personalized and tailored to the person being counseled.

Use the tools at your disposal to know where the person has been and where their career needs to go next. Do homework that

prepares you to advise them on schools or experiences that will help them make the next rank, or land the ideal job.

Performance reports present another chance to take good care of your people. The first step in that direction is knowing when the enlisted or officer report is due. With this date in mind, remind your people early on in the cycle to record their accomplishments. Some call this a work diary and it can be as simple as a piece of paper or computer document. The important thing is to record what they do close to the time they do the work. This helps them help you write an accurate account of their work over the past year. By completing this document in a timely and objective manner you are "Takin' good care of your people ... every day.'

Do you need to help your folks strengthen their performance report? Try giving them an opportunity to demonstrate just how good they are. Keep them in mind the next time you receive word of a special project or career-broadening position. Sure, this may stretch them out of their comfort zone a bit, but by knowing their capabilities and limitations you'll ensure their success. Support them when they need it, give them proper guidance, point them in the right direction, and then watch them succeed.

We should broaden our sight picture

See GUIDANCE, Page 13

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The deadline for article submissions to the Whiteman Spirit is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.AF.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111 Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305

4 3

DoD sets schedule implementing new civilian personnel system

By Maj. Don Langley

Public Affairs

The sequence for initial implementation of the Department of Defense National Security Personnel System was announced Wednesday by Navy Secretary Gordon England, the senior executive overseeing the new system.

This transition to the new civilian employment system will happen incrementally, with the first group of bases scheduled for July 2005.

DoD employees slated for conversion to the new system will be included in groupings called Spirals. Spiral One will occur in three phases over an 18-month period and include about 300,000 general schedule, stateside-based Army, Navy, Air Force, and other DoD civilian employees. Air Combat Command bases fall in Spiral One. Whiteman Air Force Base will transition in the third phase.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act. The role of DoD's civilian workforce is expanding to include more significant participation in combat support functions, allowing military members to focus on war fighting

duties. The new system, while preserving the distinctions between the department's military and civilian work forces, is intended to more fully integrate the capabilities of the two groups by making the hiring and reassigning process more flexible, according to an agency fact sheet.

The system will be in place fully between July 2007 and January 2008.

"This will give managers flexibility they need to get the job done quickly and efficiently," said Sharon Blindauer, 509th Mission Support Squadron civilian personnel officer. "These are critical times, and supervisors must be able to hire quickly the needed manpower to support the mission. These changes will simplify how we hire, assign, compensate and reward employees."

Secretary England agreed.

"(NSPS) will provide the department with a modern, flexible and agile human resource system that can be more responsive to the national security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits," he said.

Training and communication are key to this transition.

"We're committed to providing information to all our civilian employees," said



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Pop

Bob Fuemmeler, labor relations specialist, and Sharon Blindauer, civilian personnel officer, review personnel paperwork. They are members of the 509th Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Flight.

Mrs. Blindauer. "As with any change, we will probably learn a few lessons and make a few adjustments over time. By working together to identify issues, we will accomplish the mission while still providing a first-class employment system

for our civilian work force."

For more information about the upcoming transition, contact the civilian personnel office at 687-6475 or visit the NSPS Web site at http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

U.S. Strategic Command reorganization under way

By Capt. Cristina Oxtra

U.S. Strategic Command Public Affairs

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — U.S. Strategic Command here recently began a comprehensive reorganization of its headquarters element and a realignment of its supporting commands. USSTRATCOM will continue to combine the synergy of the U.S. strategic deterrent mission and the recently integrated space missions with four previously unassigned missions: global strike; information operations; integrated missile defense; global command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

During the first phase of the reorganization, begun on Nov. 15, the command is aligning functions to more closely resemble those at the Department of Defense's Joint Staff and other unified combatant commands. The new organization incorporates the warfighting skills of intelligence, logistics, command and control, communications and computer systems under the control of the Director of Global Operations, commonly known in military terms as the "J3."

Maj. Gen. Kevin Campbell, USSTRATCOM chief of staff and leader of the reorganization team, said he's confident the changes will improve USSTRATCOM's effectiveness and efficiency.

"Our J3 construct places all current operations-related activities under one director," General Campbell said. "This particular configuration ensures our operators, regardless of where around the world they may be

deployed, are all focused on the same set of command priorities."

In addition to the Director of Global Operations, the new headquarters structure also establishes an Office of Manpower and Personnel (J1), a Directorate of Plans and Policy (J5), and a Directorate of Capability and Resource Integration (J8). This will posture the command to plan, integrate and provide leadership for the command's unique mission set.

Realigning headquarters functions is just one step in an overall strategy to streamline USSTRATCOM's operations to better support the warfighter. The command has also taken steps to create subordinate commands or Joint Functional Component Commands that will take over some current STRAT functions like day-to-day planning and execution for USSTRATCOM's primary mission areas. The missions of the four JFCCs will be space and global strike; intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance; information operations; and missile defense.

USSTRATCOM will exercise overall command and control of the subordinate commands, integrate planning across all mission areas and advocate for needed capabilities to fulfill component requirements.

Precise timelines for establishing full operating capability of the subordinate commands are still being developed.

Because USSTRATCOM will provide some civilian and military staffing to facilitate the establishment of these subordinate commands, General Campbell and his staff are anticipating additional headquarters organization-

al changes.

"We are working closely with the JFCC commanders to identify how many people they will need to fulfill their mission responsibilities," he said. "The initial staffing for the JFCCs will be derived from the existing commands, both headquarters STRATCOM and the Army and Air Force service commands. The stand-up of these organizations will require minimal additional manpower, with some additional JFCC presence at Offutt."

Additionally, USSTRATCOM will leverage DoD agencies in standing up the JFCCs for information operations and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Although this phase of the realignment will develop more slowly, General Campbell said the changes are part of the evolution of the organization and a necessary step in maintaining USSTRATCOM's relevance in today's global security environment.

"In the past, our complex organizational structure caused the services to struggle to pull together the various organizations supporting our missions. While each of our missions is clearly distinguishable, they are all global in nature — spanning across multiple levels and lines of authority, across regional boundaries and intersecting with various national agencies," General Campbell said. "I believe the new construct reduces the layers within the headquarters, introduces an opportunity to reduce our footprint by moving functions into the Joint Functional Component Commands, focuses the services on a single service-led component, and establishes permanent commands dedicated to a mission."

Photo by Airman Jason Burton

Positive ID

Senior Airman Charles Whaley, 509th Security Forces Squadron, helps Aliyah Williams place her finger print on a child identification card. Security forces members helped 83 children with fingerprinting and took photos free of charge Sunday at the base exchange. The information was then placed in a packet for parents to keep. Aliyah's mother is Staff Sgt. Celialee Fleming, 509th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Niner Line

Dial 687-3119 or e-mail 9rL@whiteman.af.mil

Whiteman's Niner Line provides a communication channel for you to obtain information and assistance in making Whiteman a better place to live and work.

Before calling the Niner Line, try to resolve your particular problem with the responsible base agency.

If you've exhausted all the normal avenues to resolve the situation, then call Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, at 687-3119 or email 9rL@whiteman.af.mil.

Academy fallout will change, improve sexual assault prevention

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — All servicemembers will deal with the fallout from the sexual assault problems at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Department of Defense officials said here Dec. 7.

First, the department "takes any and all allegations of sexual harassment and sexual assault very seriously," said Pentagon spokesman Larry Di Rita. He said DoD officials are committed to improving prevention efforts, enhancing support to victims and increasing offender accountability.

The department will institute a confidential reporting process for sexual assaults, said Dr. David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

"We have learned that confidentiality to victims will actually increase the probability that cases will be reported — cases that are currently unknown to us," he said. "We want to sustain good order and discipline by holding those who assault their fellow servicemembers accountable for their actions. But first and foremost, we want victims to come forward for help."

The service secretaries and service chiefs have agreed on a process, Dr. Chu

At Whiteman:

The 509th Bomb Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office staff reminds base members to be proactive in preventing and eliminating sexual harassment and sexual assault.

MEO members can brief Whiteman units about sexual harassment, sexual assault and other human relations topics. Staff members can be reached by email at 509bw/me@whiteman.af.mil, and by phone at 687-5742, 687-5738 or 687-5737. MEO is located at 400 Lockbourne Terrace, across from the veterinary clinic.

said. DoD officials will put the victims confidentiality reporting system in place by Jan. 1, he said.

But the services first have to agree on a clear, understandable definition of what sexual assault is, Dr. Chu said.

"One of the things that often happens here is the individual will not necessarily characterize what happened to them as sexual assault," he said.

The definition will be written in plain English "such that the typical recruit at basic training can understand what we're saying. This is not going to be written for the lawyers," Dr. Chu said.

There is already substantial training for U.S. forces on preventing sexual assaults, starting in basic training.

"We recognize we have to reinforce that," Dr. Chu said. Servicemembers will receive further training on preventing sexual assaults as they progress through their careers, whether they are officers or enlisted members, he said.

The DoD inspector general said in a report that the root cause of sexual-assault problems at the Air Force Academy was the "failure of successive chains of command over the past 10 years to acknowledge the severity of the problem. Consequently, they failed to initiate and monitor adequate corrective measures to change the culture until very recently."

According to the report, many academy leaders "could have been better role models, could have been more vigilant" in

inspecting those under their command. Leaders, the report found, "failed to guard and suppress sexual misconduct among cadets ... and failed to hold cadets accountable for such misconduct."

An Air Force IG investigation on how agents of the Office of Special Investigations at the academy handled sexual-assault allegations found there was "no evidence of intentional mishandling or willful neglect in any case reviewed."

Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force vice chief of staff, said action will speak louder than words. He vowed the service would deal with the problem and "provide a workplace with dignity and respect, and a safe environment for our people to serve honorably."

"(Airmen) come to us from a greater population," General Moseley said, "but that does not take us off the hook to have the best possible care, the best possible environment and the tightest relationship to ensure that that dignity occurs at all levels in the Air Force.

"(This includes at) the academy, but also in ROTC, (Officer Training School), basic training and technical schools.

"(It also includes at) every workplace in the Air Force, whether we're expeditionary, deployed or home-stationed," he said.

Whiteman Spirit Award



Senior Airman Timothy Sullivan

509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Senior Airman Timothy Sullivan, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Nov. 30.

Connie Koch, 509th Services Squadron, nominated Airman Sullivan for this award.

Airman Sullivan volunteered more than 25 hours to the community center's Boo Bash on Oct. 31. He planned the construction, coordinated help from Airmen Against Drunk Driving and arranged sponsorship from the Airmen's Council. More than 700 people attended the Boo Bash.

"Airman Sullivan is both a seeker and a leader," Mrs. Koch said. "He thoroughly enjoys helping others, and always has a smile and a good word for all he meets."

Personally Speaking

Duty Title: B-2 weapons load crew member

Time on station: 2 years

Time in service: 3 years, 1 month

Hometown: Corona, Calif.

Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, and playing and designing mes.

Goals: To make a difference.

Best thing about Whiteman: The atmosphere.

Pet Peeves: Ignorance; people who are unwilling to learn, change and grow.

What motivates your winning spirit? My family and the way I was raised.

If you could change one thing about Whiteman, what would it be? The location.

Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed by the individual making Whiteman a better place to live and work by going far beyond his or her assigned duties to "make it happen."

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil.



Did you know you can fill out a Department of Defense Form 2266, Hometown News Release, for a variety of accomplishments? For more details, call 1st Lt. Ed Gulick at 687-6122.

TSP begins catch-up contributions enrollment for 2005

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Air Force Personnel Center's benefits and entitlements service team automated systems are available for 2005 Thrift Savings Plan catch-up contribution enrollments.

"TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from (regular) contributions," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at the center here.

To be eligible for catch-up contributions, employees must be 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction occurs, be in a "pay" status, and be making regular contributions at either the maximum TSP percentage or an amount that will reach the Internal Revenue Service limit by the end of the year, she said.

"They also must not be in the six-month noncontribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal," Ms. Thomas said.

Employees contributing to other eligible tax-deferred retirement programs, such as a 401(k), need to be aware that the IRS

limit applies to the total contributed to eligible tax-deferred retirement savings plans.

✓ Catch-up contributions have their own IRS annual limit that is separate from the annual limit for regular contributions. The maximum catch-up con-

tribution for 2005 is \$4,000, while the IRS limit for regular contributions will be \$14,000.

There is

no "open season" applicable to TSP catchup contributions. Eligible employees may start, change, stop or restart catch-up contributions at any time. The BEST automated Web and phone system is accepting catch-

tions to be deducted in 2005.

Enrollments submitted by Dec. 25 will be effective Dec. 26, with the first

up contribution enrollments for contribu-

contribution deducted from the Jan. 14 pay. Subsequent enrollments will be effective at the beginning of the next pay period.

✓ When making contribution elections, employees must designate a whole-dollar amount they wish to contribute each pay day rather than the annual maximum of \$4,000. Employees can't designate an

amount that exceeds their net pay; if they do, payroll officials will not withhold any TSP contributions. Employees who want to spread their contributions evenly over the year will divide the total they wish to contribute by the

number of pay dates remaining in the year. There are 26 pay dates in 2005 for employees who submit their election before Dec. 25.

✓ Catch-up contributions will automatically stop with the last pay date in the

year or upon reaching the maximum catchup dollar limit for the year, whichever comes first. Because the IRS limit for catch-up contributions changes each year, participants must submit a new election each year.

✓ Eligible Air Force-serviced civilian employees may enroll for catch-up contributions online at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm or through the BEST phone system. The online system is also available through the Air Force portal at http://www.my.af.mil.

▶ Employees may reach the BEST phone system by dialing 800-616-3775 (press 2 for Air Force-serviced civilian employee, then 2 again for BEST benefits and entitlements, and follow the prompts). Overseas employees need to dial a direct access number for the country they are located in, then 800-997-2378.

Additional information is available online at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm under "Thrift Savings Plan," and the TSP Web site at http://www.tsp.gov.

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Photo by Melissa Klinkne

Staff Sgt. Steven Mersky, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, reviews the quality assurance evaluation handbook to keep up on current regulations.

Aviation dreams lead to soaring successes



By Melissa Klinkner

Public Affairs

In order to continue bringing our B-2 pilots home safe, someone must ensure the B-2's low observable technology is always cutting edge.

Do you ever wonder who takes care of this enormous task? You need search no further than Whiteman's own Staff Sgt. Steven Mersky and the 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron.

As the lead LO test evaluator for the 72nd TES, Sergeant Mersky is in charge of application, monitoring and evaluating a wide range of LO projects dealing with the ability of the B-2 to go virtually undetected, said Master Sgt. Roscoe Van Ausdoll, 72nd TES. "He's involved in cutting edge technology, and validates procedures and applications today that the B-2 could take into combat tomorrow."

Since as far back as he can remember, Sergeant Mersky said he dreamed of having a job such as this. He spent his childhood days doing anything related to aviation, from building airplane models to flying radio-controlled aircraft.

When he reached college age, it wasn't hard for Sergeant Mersky to choose aircraft technology as his major, he said. After completing his associate's degree from Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, he wanted the chance to make a difference in his country.

"I wanted to serve and protect my country, along with getting some real-time experience in the aviation industry," Sergeant Mersky said. So, he enlisted in the Air Force.

He said he couldn't be happier that his Air Force career has led him to Whiteman where he has the opportunity to make integral contributions to the B-2 and its mission

Staff Sgt. Michael Rich, Detachment 6, 372nd Training Squadron, said Sergeant Mersky has been a continual force in the development and testing of new LO technologies and ensures only quality, viable processes are incorporated into the program. "Few technicians are able to com-

prehend as quickly and perform complex tasks as flawlessly as he," he said.

"Being a part of the world's greatest airframe makes me feel so proud," Sergeant Mersky said. "Being a part of the Air Force has enhanced my views on patriotism and core values. It feels great to know that what I do makes such a difference."

Tech. Sgt. Gene Peoples, 509th Maintenance Squadron, said one of the core values that stands out in Sergeant Mersky is service before self.

"Whenever he's tasked with something, you can count on the mission getting done without complaints no matter how long it takes or how bad the job is. Through his example, he tries to inspire Airmen in the workplace that the military is more than a nine-to-five job and to be proud of the work they do," Sergeant Peoples said.

Sergeant Rich said Sergeant Mersky has set examples for others through his attitude and his leadership. "He will go out of his way to help any of his co-workers on or off the job regardless of the (personal) sacrifices he makes," he said.

Sergeant Mersky has shown integrity by conquering various challenges and obstacles throughout his career including spending three years overseas as a single parent, said Tech. Sgt. Thomas Wimmer, 509th Maintenance Group, who also worked with Sergeant Mersky at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

"One of the things that helped me overcome these challenges was my firm belief in God." Sergeant Mersky said. "Faith, in my opinion, is very important. You need to have faith in yourself and also in others to be successful. Faith also goes along with having self-confidence and I know that's what has helped me."

As a person who enjoys having a "cando" attitude, Sergeant Mersky has set many goals for his Air Force career. A few of these goals include making chief master sergeant, becoming a better speaker, leader and supervisor for new Airmen, finishing his bachelor's degree in aviation maintenance management and gaining an inspector's authorization for his airframe power plant mechanics license.

Among his goals and job challenges, Sergeant Mersky said he places emphasis

See MERSKY, Page 13



Civilian Employee of the Week

Dee Stuart, 509th Comptroller Squadron, was nominated for this award by Jo Ostendorf, 509th Bomb Wing. Ms. Ostendorf was never reimbursed for a deployment while assigned to another base. "About a month after I met Dee, she asked me if I still had my travel voucher from the 2000 deployment," Ms. Ostendorf said. "When I gave her the paper work, she said, 'I'll get you paid." Ms. Stuart worked in her free time for a few months doing research, making phone calls and putting information together. "I just received my back pay from four years ago. Not only was this not her responsibility, this wasn't even Whiteman's responsibility," Ms. Ostendorf said. "I appreciated her tenacity and willingness to resolve this."



WHO'S YOUR WINGMAN?

THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE THAT JUST WEREN'T MEANT TO BE HANDLED ALONE ...

IF YOU NEED A WINGMAN THE BASE CHAPLAIN, THE LIFE SKILLS COUNSELORS, AND THE PEOPLE AT 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) ARE READY TO HELP.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY



GUIDANCE, continued from Page 2 -

often to see how to take the best care of a group of people. This means keeping a watchful eye on good order and discipline. The old saying "One bad apple can spoil the barrel" can apply to your duty section or squadron.

By ensuring fairness, equality and properly applied corrective discipline, morale will soar and your mission will be accomplished. We always need to review an issue from all angles, consider the known facts, and then act for what's best for our Air Force.

Recognition is one of the most powerful demonstrations of how we take good care of our people. Nothing is more demoralizing to most of us than doing a great job and feeling that we're the only ones who know it. Gather up those performance reports, extract the strongest bullets, and then write that decoration to show the world what your shining star has done.

Decorations are but one way to recognize your folks; don't forget squadron, group and wing awards. Walking in front of wing members the first of each month is one of the most powerful forms of recognition at your disposal.

Though not always easy or intuitive, the time you invest in your coworkers is well spent. By taking good care of your people you develop them to their full potential and help them support our mission.

Stick with these simple steps and you'll follow Randy and Fred's advice when they sang "Takin' care of business every day — Takin' care of business in every way."

From the Whiteman Spirit staff

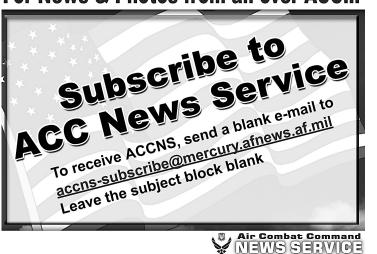
MERSKY, continued from Page 10 -

on making time for his wife, Stacy, and two boys, Joseph and Steven. He said that no matter how busy things get, it's extremely important to make a conscious decision to spend time with family. So, whether it's eating dinners around the table, going to church, or youth soccer, he and his family participate together.

According to co-workers, Sergeant Mersky has a high degree of personal and family values and does an outstanding job of raising his kids and being a husband. "You couldn't ask for any deeper expression of core values," Sergeant Wimmer said.

Sergeant Wimmer said it's the whole-person concept that earned Sergeant Mersky his current job. "He exhibits patriotism with pride and professionalism by being one of the best at what he does. I'm sure that's why he was selected for his position at the 72nd TES. He's an exceptional person and a role model for all."

For News & Photos from all over ACC...





Courtesy photo

Two points

Aimee Nicolson won the 10- to 11-year-old girls regional hoop shoot contest Dec. 4 at Warrensburg Middle School. The region is made up of schools from Centerview, Chillhowee, Holden, Kingsville, Knob Noster, Leaton and Warrensburg, Mo. She will represent the region at the district hoop shoot contest Jan. 8 Camdenton, Mo. Aimee's parents are Master Sgt. Cory Nicolson, 509th Bomb Wing, and Sheryl Nicolson, 509th Medical Group.

Education

For more details, visit the education center Web site at https://wwwmil.whiteman.af.mil/509mss/educ/homepage.htm.

Apply online for tuition assistance

The Air Force Virtual Education Center expands its service to include online tuition assistance requests. Air Force members preparing to register for college courses requesting tuition assistance are encouraged to apply online using AFVEC. Starting Jan. 3, Air Force members can request tuition assistance through AFVEC at

https://afvec.langley.af.mil. For more details, call Larry Broudrick at the education center at 687-2420.

AFAS grant available

The Air Force Aid Society 2005/2006 Gen. Henry Arnold Education \$1,500 Grant Program applications are available at the family support center. People who are interested may pick up an application at the FSC or go online to https://www.afas.org.

To find out if you're qualified or for more information, call the FSC at 687-7132.

Microsoft certification available

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support announced a fully funded pilot testing program that provides free Microsoft certification tests to eligible servicemembers.

The number of tests is limited and are issued on a firstcome, first-served basis. For more details, visit the Web site at http://www.dantes-microsoft-test.com or call Larry Broudrick at the education center at 687-2420.

Community

Self-help store hours change

The family housing self-help store winter hours are 10

a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

Also, housing occupants must disconnect water hoses to prevent freezing and water line damage. For more details, call Maureen Gunter at 687-7171.

Toys for Tots drop-offs set

The Whiteman Company Grade Officers Association is collecting toys for the Toy for Tots program until Wednesday.

The toys collected will stay on base and be donated to the Angel Tree program. Toys must be new but not gift wrapped. There are collection boxes in the military personnel flight customer service office, chapel, family support center, deployment center and the 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron orderly room. For more details, call 2nd Lt. Rachel Murphy at 687-6413.

B-2 holiday tour set

Due to the high demand for B-2 holiday tours, a B-2 will be towed in front of base operations 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday and Dec. 27, weather permitting. Reservations are not needed.

Those who previously registered to meet at Mission's End should go directly to base operations to view the B-2. For more details, call public affairs at 687-6121.

Free credit report available

The Federal Trade Commission works for consumers to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices, as well as provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them.

To help that cause, free credit reports will be phased in during a nine-month period from west to east across the United States. This program, which began Dec. 1, is scheduled to have free credit reports available to all Americans regardless of where they live by Sept. 1,

For more information, visit http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/ conline/pubs/credit/freereports.htm or call Capt. Adam Slaughter in the legal office at 687-6809.

RRRP accepts trees

Base members may recycle live Christmas trees in the yard waste bins at the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Program drop-off center on 3rd Street. Tree decorations must be removed before disposal. A curbside pick-up

service for housing residents disposing of Christmas trees begins Dec. 28. This service takes place Tuesdays and Thursdays through Jan. 10. For more details, call RRRP at 687-6253 or visit https://intranet.whiteman.af.mil/509BW/509MSG/509CES/CEV/rrrp_Resale/rrrp resale.htm.

Reminder for dorm residents

The 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department recently reported some dormitory occupants are not evacuating when the fire alarm goes off. Dorm residents must follow the proper evacuation route during fire alarms and exercise proper safety when evacuating. For more details, call the fire department at 687-

Family Support

Call 687-7132 for more details on these events or other family support center activities. Events take place at the FSC.

Santa opens his workshop

Santa will be in his workshop 1-3 p.m. today and 10 a.m.-noon Saturday. Get a free photo with the jolly old

WIC representative visits base

A WIC representative is available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday. WIC includes nutrition education, health promotion and a supplemental food program to help women, infants and children who have nutritional needs. For more details, call the WIC office in Warrensburg at 660-747-2012.

Pre-deployment briefing set

A mandatory pre-deployment briefing for people who are deploying or going on a temporary duty assignment for more than 30 days begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Spouses are encouraged to attend. This briefing covers information about preparing for deployment and programs available to family members who are left behind.

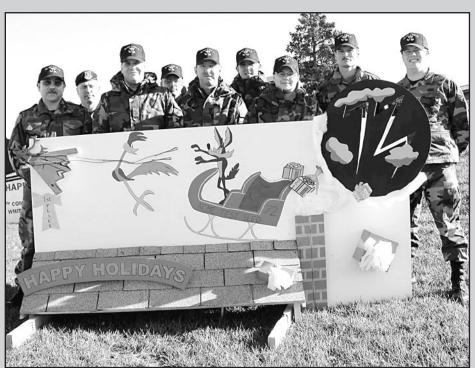


Photo by 1st Lt. Ed Gulick

And the winner is ...

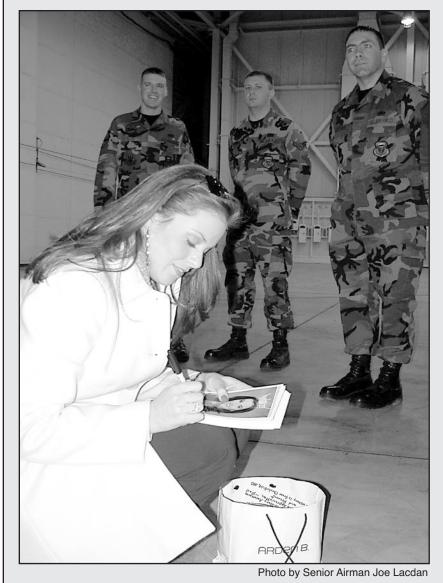
The 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron won the holiday greeting card contest. They received 10 percent off their holiday party at Mission's End. The 509th Mission Operations Squadron won second place and received five percent of their holiday party at the club. The 509th Services Squadron organized the contest and the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron provided the lumber.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Leila Hemenway

Angels among us

Senior Airmen Michael Hutchins and Christopher Butler arrange angels on the Angel Tree at the base exchange. The Angel Tree program helps ensure every boy and girl in the Whiteman community receives a gift for Christmas. The Airmen are members of the 509th Maintenance Squadron.



Here she is

Whitney Weeks, Miss Missouri 2004, signs autographs for 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron members Saturday. Ms. Weeks and Olena Rubin, Miss Hawaii 2004, toured the base, a B-2, the 442nd Fighter Wing's A-10 and Oscar-01. The women attended a pageant in Knob Noster after the tour. The 509th AMXS members pictured are Airmen 1st Class Christopher Smith and Chad Blackwell, and Master Sgt. John Raffiani.

'Our hope was to touch somebody's heart'

Base chapel's annual Christmas Cantata wows Team Whiteman



Photos by Senior Airman Joe Lacdan

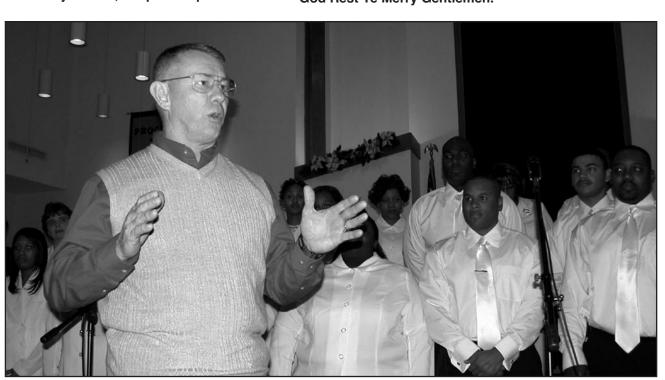
Praise dancer Tiffani Dosler performs her solo dance "Now Behold the Lamb" by Kirk Franklin. The Christmas Cantata was planned by Capt. Michael and Tynekia Taplin, 509th Medical Support Squadron, and Jeff Pero. "Our goal was to touch somebody's heart," Captain Taplin said.



Members of a combined Gospel choir sing "Gabriel's Message" at the chapel during the annual Christmas Cantata. The 35-member choir sang 11 songs during the event.



Carol Matson, LeAnne Frederick, Sarah Bachmann and Rachael Erichsen of the Spirit Ringers bell choir perform "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

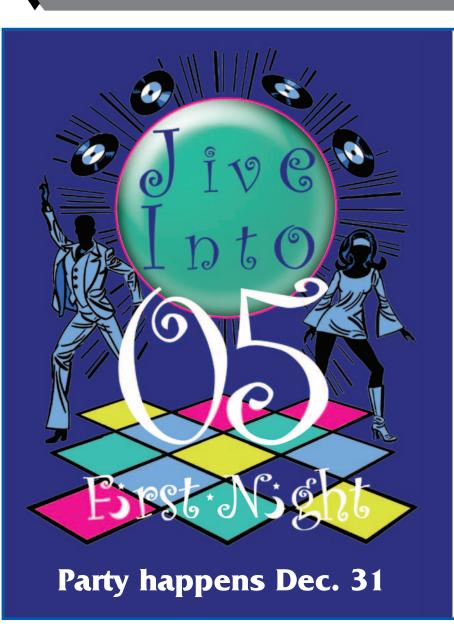


Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Underwood, 509th Bomb Wing, speaks to more than 150 Christmas Cantata attendants at the chapel Sunday. Chaplain Underwood thanked the performers for their efforts. The event was followed by a reception in the chapel lobby where refreshments were served.



Keyboardist Bruce Kerr and saxophonist Todd Kitchen supply background music to the Combined Gospel Choir. The combined choir composed of 35 people from both base Protestant chapel services and three off-base churches. More than 55 people were involved in the production of the Christmas Cantata.

SERVICES



Schedule of Events

Opening ceremony begins at noon at the fitness center

Fitness center activities: 12:30-2 p.m. Lip Sync Contest with prizes for first,

second and third place
Tricycle Relay with prizes for first, second and third place (family and group)
Food: Fruit and veggie trays, and
Gatorade

Stars & Strikes activities: 1-4 p.m.

Cosmic Bowling Food: Pizza and soda

Community center activities: 3-6 p.m.

Family Bingo
Face Painting
Balloon Making
Build a Float Contest
Magician

Food: Meat and cheese trays, rolls, fruit and veggie trays, cookies and soda

Library activities: 6-7 p.m.

Story Time and Craft Food: Cookies and juice

Mission's End activities: 7-11p.m.

Enlisted Dining Room (K-7)
Smiley Face Bouncer Dance Contest
Candy Bar Bingo Video Game Corner
Crafts Board Games
Cookie Decorating New Year's Picture

Youth Door Prizes
Take Homes (mood rings, mini yoyo, light rope necklaces, retro hat, etc.)

Food: Sugar cookies, chips and dip, assorted candy and soda

Main Ball Room

Disc Jockey Hula Hoop Contest Limbo Contest Sock Hop Door Prizes

Food: Hors d' oeuvres 7-10 p.m. and Breakfast Hors d' oeuvres 10-11 p.m.

Officer Bar Movie Room Food: Popcorn and soda

Officer Dining Room (8-12)
Crafts Board Games
Magic Cube Puzzle Contest
New Year's Picture
Name that Tune Contest
Bubble Blowing Contest
Bowling for Bucks
Cookie Decorating
Twister Limbo
Invent a Dance Contest

Door Prizes
Take Homes (mood ring, light rope necklaces, retro hat, etc.)

Food: Sugar cookies, chips and dip, assorted candy and soda

*All areas will be decorated in retro style with New Year hats, horns, etc.

Countdown to New Year's Eve in the ballroom at midnight EST.

This space is reserved for advertisements



Photo by Airman 1st Class Ryan Wilson

Super Bowl bound

Col. Chris Miller, 509th Bomb Wing commander, congratulates Master Sgt. William Albers, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, on winning Super Bowl tickets Thursday. Sergeant Albers is a club member and won the tickets through the Air Force Services Agency's Football Frenzy. Sergeant Albers was one of four people Air Forcewide to win the trip, which includes two round-trip tickets to Jacksonville, Fla., hotel accommodations, rental car, game tickets and local attraction tickets. He's the third Whiteman member to win this trip in the last five years.



Services Page information was provided by the 509th Services Squadron......687-4386 *No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Stars & Strikes 687-5114

Sunday family dollar days

- ★ 2-5 p.m. Sundays
- ★ All games \$1 per bowler per game
- ★ Shoe rental \$1 per pair

Holiday school break special

Keep the children busy during the holiday school break. This offer includes two hours of bowling, shoe rental and food. The cost is \$6.50 per child. The program takes place 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 20-30 excluding Dec. 24-25 and weekends. Call for more information.

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Closure

The NAF Resale Store is closed Wednesday-Dec. 29.

Festival of lights dinner and tour

Take a trip to the Warsaw, Mo., and Long Shoals Marina festival of lights dinner and tour 4:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 18. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 for a family of four; bring money for dinner. Call for more details about this event.

Military appreciation days

Snow Creek Resort in Weston, Mo., offers Military Appreciation Days Jan. 5 and 19. A shuttle to the resort leaves outdoor recreation at 10:15 a.m. both days. Transportation costs \$5 per person or \$15 for a family of four. Active-duty military members get a free ski and lift pass; dependents or any other military classification with a valid ID get discounted rates. Bring snacks and lunch, or money to buy from the snack shop. The bus will leave the resort by 7:45 p.m. and return to base by 10 p.m. Sign up by Jan. 3 or 17. Call for more details.

Couples moonlight skiing

Couples can ski under the stars Jan. 7-8. at Snow Creek Resort in Weston, Mo. A bus leaves outdoor recreation at 4 p.m. Jan. 7. The cost is \$105 for pass and ski equipment, or \$90 for a pass only and includes: 10 p.m.-3 a.m. skiing, hotel accommodations, pizza, drinks and breakfast at the hotel. The bus will leave the resort by 11 a.m. and return to base by 1 p.m. Jan. 8. Call to sign up or for more details.

Royal Oaks 687-5573

Closure

The Royal Oaks Golf Course pro shop is closed until Jan.

Travel & Leisure

Tickets & Travel 687-5643

Tickets & Travel is closed Sunday-Jan. 3. It reopens Jan. 4 at its new location inside the skills development center.

Food & Fun

Mission's End

Closed Jan. 1

Pay-per-view basketball

- Watch "NBA League Pass" games nightly until Thurs-
- Watch "ESPN Full Court" games nightly until Wednesday except for today and Monday.
- Starting times for televised games vary. Call Mission's End for more details. This is free for club members only.

Community Activities

Community Center 687-5617

Adopt an Airman for Christmas

Host an Airman in your home Dec. 25 to share family fun, food and festivities. Participants must sign up by Monday at the community center. Call for more details.

Join new chapter Mad Red Hatters

The Mad Red Hatters, an organization for women 50 and older, meet at noon Jan. 5 at the community center. Participants tour, talk, drink tea and reserve the right to wear red and purple. Participants should bring a sack lunch. Tea and cookies will be provided. There will be a drawing to win red hat merchandise. Call for more details about this free event.

Wacky winter Olympics

Play summer sports indoors 2-4 p.m. Jan 8 at the community center. Games include putt-putt golf, pop-a-shot basketball, wish for a fish, shuffle board, horse shoes and more. Call for more details about this free event.

Library 687-5614

Story time

Story time for 3- to 5-year-olds begins at 10 a.m. Wednesdays in December. Stories will be presented and crafts will be made. For more details, call the library or visit the Web site at http://www.whitemanAFBlibrary.org.

Veterinary Clinic 687-2667

Protect pets from winter's woes

The holiday season can be a hazardous time for your pets. Ensure your furry friends stay safe this holiday season by keeping sharp or breakable tree ornaments out of the pet's reach. Vaccinations, heartworm and feline leukemia testing are some of the services offered at the clinic. Call or visit the veterinary clinic for other winter tips and information.

Teen Center 687-5819

The Polar Express

Animated

Holiday break boredom buster days

Families and their visiting relatives or guests can visit the youth center 1-6 p.m Tuesday-Thursday for open recreation. Different activities will be available each day. Call for more information about this free event.

Ski trip

Teens can take an overnight trip and ski 9 a.m.-noon Dec. 28-29 at Snow Creek Resort in Weston, Mo. Slopes are available for beginner and experienced skiers. The \$10 fee includes skiing, meals and overnight accommodations. A pre-trip meeting for teens and parents begins at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the youth center. Space is limited. Sign up by Wednesday. Call for more information.

Friday flick night

Watch new releases on the big-screen TV 7-10 p.m. Jan. 7 at the teen center. This event is free for members and \$1 for non-members. Call for more information.

Youth Center 687-5586

Fitness night

Wear fitness clothes 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Jan. 7. and take part in a fitness skill-a-thon. Participants can play basketball, soccer, bombardment, parachute games and more. There is a \$5 fee for members and \$6.50 fee for nonmembers. Call to sign up or for more information.

Hangout night

The preteen bucks store is open 6-9 p.m. Jan. 8 to redeem accumulated points for prizes. Participants can play games in the gym or lobby, challenge friends to a video game, or watch a movie on the big-screen TV. The game cabinet will also be open. There is a \$2 fee for members and \$3 fee for non-members. Sign up begins Jan. 3 at the youth center. Call for more information.

Skate day

Kindergartners through seventh graders can bring rollerblades, skates or scooters, and skate to their favorite music 3-5 p.m. Jan. 8. The youth center gym will be set up for free skating and the snack bar will be open. Sign up begins Jan. 3 at the youth center. Call for more infor-

Skills Development Center 687-5691 Closed Monday- Jan. 3

Scrapbooking workshop

Create stationary and to use in scrapbooking projects 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. Participants can make 20 pages for \$20. Call for more details or stop by to sign up.

Knitting Class

A three-session knitting class takes place 5:30-7 p.m. Jan. 6, 13 and 20 at the skills development center. The \$27.50 fee includes supplies. Call for more details or stop by to sign up.

Video filming class

Take a three-session video camera and apply new techniques to your photography skills 6:30-9 p.m. Jan. 6, 13 and 20 at the skills development center. The \$60 fee includes supplies. Call for more details or stop by to sign

<u>Whiteman Inn</u> 687-1844

Lodging holiday policy

During the holiday season, Team Whiteman members can make family reservations up to two weeks before their family arrives through Jan. 31 at Whiteman Inn. People can reserve three nights at a time, with the option to extend, based on availability. Call for more information.

Whiteman Theater Movie Schedule

7 p.m. Starring — Leigh Whannell and Cary Elwes

Saturday

3 and 7 p.m.

Animated Dec. 26

Spongebob Squarepants PG

7 p.m.

5:30 pm

7 p.m.

National Treasure Starring — Nicolas Cage and Justin Bartha

Jan. 2 Starring — Collin Farrell and Angelina Jolie

Children: \$1.75

Alexander

For current and future movie listings log on to http://www.aafes.com/ems/conus/whiteman.htm.

Sunday After the Sunset PG-13 5:30 p.m. Starring — Peirce Brosnan and Salma Hayek

> Adults: \$3.50 Movie Recording Line: 687-5110 Movie subject to change due to availability.